

AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Withdrawn-Original) A method for enclosing a packaging machine (100), characterized by:

dividing said packaging machine (100) in at least two separate work areas or portions (110;130,120) having different operation tasks and arranged one after another along a packaging line (2) of the machine (100);

enclosing each of said work portions (110;130,120) by and within at least one enclosing chamber (3,4) for protecting said portion (110;130,120);

forming with at least one of said enclosing chambers (3) an environment under pressure, while at least another chamber (4) forms a closed environment, whose pressure is equal to the outside pressure.

15. (Withdrawn-Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said packaging machine (100) is an automatic machine, aimed at packaging pharmaceutical products in containers;

said work portions (110;130,120) of said packaging machine (100) being defined by a first work portion (120) including at least one station (121) for feeding said pharmaceutical products, and at least one second work portion (110) including at least one station (111) for production/feeding said containers;

said enclosing chamber (3) with pressurized environment enclosing said second work portion (110) and said enclosing chamber (4) with a substantially constant pressure enclosing said first work portion (120) of said packaging machine (100).

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said packaging machine (100) includes also a third work portion (130) including at least one station (131) for closing said

containers; said enclosing chamber (3) with pressurized environment enclosing said second and third portion (110,130).

17. (Withdrawn-Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said packaging machine (100) is a blistering machine for packaging pharmaceutical products in blister packs, in which said second work portion (110) includes a station (111) for forming blisters on a band material (115), to form, downstream of the station (111), a blister band (116); and said third work portion (130) including a station (131) for closing said blister band (116) with a corresponding band material.

18.(New) An enclosing structure for a packaging machine, said packaging machine including at least two work portions having different operational tasks, arranged one after another along a packaging line of said packaging machine, the enclosing structure comprising:

enclosing panel-shaped means (P) assembled together to form at least two enclosing chambers for protecting each of said two work portions, a first enclosing chamber enclosing an environment at a pressure higher than an outside pressure and a second enclosing chamber enclosing an environment with a pressure equal to the outside pressure;

means for generating at least one flow of high pressure air delivered only into said first enclosing chamber;

passages provided between the first enclosing chamber and the second enclosing chamber to permit air to pass only from said first enclosing chamber with the pressurized environment to the second enclosing chamber with the pressure equal to the outside pressure;

suction means for withdrawing air from an inside of said second enclosing chamber to maintain the pressure inside said second enclosing substantially constant and equal to the outside pressure;

means cooperating with said generating means and with said suction means for

purifying a flow of air at an outlet of said second enclosing chamber.

19. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 18, wherein said packaging machine is used for packaging pharmaceutical products in containers, said work portions being a first work portion including at least one station for feeding said pharmaceutical products, and a second work portion including at least one station for producing/feeding said containers, said first enclosing chamber enclosing said second work portion and said second enclosing chamber enclosing said first work portion of said packaging machine.

20. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 19, wherein said packaging machine includes a third work portion having at least one station for closing said containers, said first enclosing chamber (3) enclosing said second and third portions.

21. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 19, wherein said packaging machine is a blistering machine for packaging pharmaceutical products in blister packs, said second work portion including a station for forming blisters on a band material, thereby forming a blister band, said third work portion including a station for closing said blister band.

22. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first enclosing chamber has at least one mouth for allowing said band material to move forward in a defined feeding direction (D) along said packaging line, said mouth having fluid-dynamic barrier means for acting on said band material to remove any contaminants therefrom.

23. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 18, wherein said first enclosing chamber includes a plurality of panels, said first enclosing chamber having an intermediate space (37), located in a connection area between two panels, said intermediate space allowing air present inside the first enclosing chamber (3) to exit the first chamber in a continuous flow.

24.(New) A structure as claimed in claim 18, wherein said generating means include at

least one pump for drawing air from the outside environment and conveying the air through introduction ducts toward said first enclosing chamber, said purifying means including filter means for filtering the air before introducing the air into the first enclosing chamber;

sensor means connected to said filter means for detecting variations in a volume of air flow and for sending control signals to a control unit, said control unit connected to means for operating said pump.

25. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 24, wherein said filter means comprise a main filter located in said introduction ducts downstream of said pump and having first sensor means connected thereto, and, a secondary filter located upstream of said pump and having second sensor means connected thereto.

26. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 25, wherein said first and second sensor means are differential manostats for measuring a difference in pressure upstream versus downstream of each respective filter.

27. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 18, wherein said suction means include an outlet duct connecting said second enclosing chamber to a suction group, at least one valve located in said outlet duct and having a variable aperture, so as to vary a quantity of air withdrawn from said second enclosing chamber, a central adjustment unit controlling the aperture of said valve to adjust the air flow withdrawn from said second enclosing chamber, and, flow measuring means located in said outlet duct and connected to said central adjustment unit for measuring said flow of air withdrawn from said second enclosing chamber and for sending a control signal to the central adjustment unit for adjusting the air flow withdrawn from said second chamber.

28. (New) A structure as claimed in claim 27, wherein said flow measuring means include

a differential manostat sensor.